

recommendation treatment **274**, number of cases under each category **275**, percent of the cases that carry the proposed/final combination **276**, percent to specialist review **277**, percent of cases with extensions (stay beyond the initial plan) **278**, the number with a guideline variance **279**, the type of guideline variance **280**, the number of times each variance code was used **280a**, and the percent of care changed by the treating physician **281**.

An example of the effectiveness report is shown in FIG. **30**. This report provides a breakdown by guideline **282** of the results of its use (or impact) on the following areas: percentage of reviews where proposed treatment selection was impacted **283**, percentage of reviews where proposed resources were impacted **284**, percentage of reviews where both treatment selection and proposed resources were impacted **285**, and the percentage of total cases impacted **286** and total cases **287**.

Also of significance are reports produced by the system **300** containing the raw data for cases. These data can be analyzed in many ways to provide information useful for the development or improvement of guidelines. As such, these data are of interest to the system developer rather than the system user.

Although the description of the preferred embodiment has been presented, it is contemplated that various changes could be made without deviating from the spirit of the present invention. Accordingly, it is intended that the scope of the present invention be dictated by the appended claims rather than by the description of the preferred embodiment.

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is:

1. An electronic system for managing medical treatments and resources required for the treatments, wherein a treatment is recommended to a care giver and the care giver proposes a treatment, comprising:

means for entering a user-proposed treatment and the resources required for the proposed treatment;

resource display means for displaying on a display device for a user one or more medical resources required to implement a recommended treatment and those required for the proposed treatment so that the required resources can be readily compared;

treatment comparison means for comparing the resources required for the proposed treatment with the resources required for a recommended treatment, and notifying a user that specialist review is required for a proposed treatment that requires resources that vary from those required for a recommended treatment;

final recommendation for treatment input means for entering a final recommendation for a treatment identified by a care giver and for accepting from a user information to explain any variance in resources between the final recommendation and the recommended treatment.

2. A system according to claim 1 wherein the resources displayed by the means for displaying are a setting for the recommended treatment, a length of stay for the recommended treatment, and a number of preop days for the recommended treatment.

3. A system according to claim 2 further wherein the means for displaying includes means for displaying the resources for the recommended treatment and final recommendation in side-by-side columns, respectively, and for displaying in a third column aligned with the side-by-side columns the reason codes accepted by a user.

4. A system according to claim 3 further wherein the treatment comparison means includes means for accepting from the user a selection of one of at least two different types of specialist review, and for displaying one or more of at least two different reasons for specialist review.

5. A system according to claim 2 further wherein the resource display means includes means for displaying for a recommended treatment whether an assistant surgeon is required for the treatment.

\* \* \* \* \*